



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



12 MONTHS OF

**TELLING OUR STORY**

**COVER:** For children like Aminata and her friends in Sama Markala, Mali, a new tax plan assures this school year won't be their last. Aminata's school is one of 1,645 that USAID helped through a small grants program. USAID provides supplies and trains teachers, and where there is interest, helps secure the long-term survival of the schools by helping parents organize associations. Parent associations manage the schools and work with local governments to improve education. In Sama Markala, parents secured local tax revenue for their community school.

PHOTO: ALEXANDRA HUDDLESTON

Everyday, all over the world, USAID brings peace to those who endure violence, health to those who struggle with sickness, and prosperity to those who live in poverty. The Telling Our Story project seeks to document these uncounted thousands of lives that USAID touches. It is these individuals—these uncounted lives—that are the true measure of USAID’s successes and the true faces of America’s foreign assistance programs.

Telling Our Story utilizes a website—[www.usaid.gov/stories](http://www.usaid.gov/stories)—to act as both a tool to help us collect stories about this work, and as a single clearinghouse to capture how the work of USAID is bringing hope into the lives of individuals, families, and communities.

To accomplish this, we need you to share stories, photos, quotes, and facts regarding your work. This material will then be featured as a part of the USAID

website and other communications materials. Through your stories, we will show that the resources of America are helping better the lives of people all around the world.

To learn more about the programs featured in these success stories, please contact Telling Our Story at [tosinquiries@usaid.gov](mailto:tosinquiries@usaid.gov) and visit us on the web at [www.usaid.gov/stories](http://www.usaid.gov/stories).

# TELLING OUR STORY

[www.usaid.gov/stories](http://www.usaid.gov/stories)



CLETO L. NANOLA, JR.

## PHILIPPINES FISH TALES

The Philippines hosts some of the world's most diverse coral reefs, but its fishing industry is in decline due to habitat destruction and unsustainable fishing practices.

USAID is helping by introducing new practices in the Danajon Bank in Bohol; the Calamianes Islands in Palawan; the northern coastal bay areas of Surigao del Sur; and the area around Bongao and Tawi-Tawi. Each of these is an important biodiversity conservation area.

The fishermen are directly involved in planning and implementing the project, while USAID is collecting baseline data. Together they are finding new ways to join conservation and increased productivity.

**USAID is assisting the community in Bongao, Philippines make ends meet by helping to implement good fishery management.**

**These boys in Bongao, Philippines hold up their day's catch of fish.**

# TELLING OUR STORY

# JANUARY '05

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 National Holiday Haiti, Sudan, Slovakia
2	3	4 National Holiday Burma	5	6	7	8
9 Pay Period 1	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 U.S. Federal Holiday Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	18	19	20	21	22
23 Pay Period 2	24	25	26 National Holiday Australia, India	27	28	29
30	31					

## RUSSIA: ADOPTS NEW METHODS OF PRENATAL AND INFANT CARE

Thirteen years after the demise of the Soviet Union, the Russian health sector still faces major challenges. To address some maternal and child health problems, USAID programs are encouraging breast feeding, training hospital staff and involving family more directly in child birth.

At USAID project sites, breastfeeding has increased by half and repeat abortions have been reduced. Recognizing USAID's success, UNICEF now gives "Baby-Friendly Hospital" certifications to facilities that follow program guidelines. USAID methods are also being incorporated into medical school curricula, and hospitals are learning to save funds to improve conditions in delivery rooms.

**Breastfeeding increased by more than 50 percent and women were more than 40 percent more likely to want family participation in the birth process.**



JOHN SNOW INC.

**VILIKIY NOVOGOROD, RUSSIA** A young girl meets her newborn brother as a part of the USAID-sponsored family centered maternity and infant care program.

# TELLING OUR STORY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> National Holiday Sri Lanka	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Pay Period 3 National Holiday New Zealand	<b>7</b> National Holiday Grenada	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> National Holiday Lithuania	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> National Holiday The Gambia	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Pay Period 4	<b>21</b> U.S. Federal Holiday Presidents' Day	<b>22</b> National Holiday Saint Lucia	<b>23</b> National Holiday Brunei, Guyana	<b>24</b> National Holiday Estonia	<b>25</b> National Holiday Kuwait	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> National Holiday Dominican Republic	<b>28</b>					

## HOOP DREAMS IN ANGOLA

Lito Elias is a 15-year-old with bright eyes and a shy smile. Although he probably once had polio, he believes a “fitzero” (wizard) cursed him and left him unable to use his legs.

But Lito is a force on the basketball court, thanks to the wheelchair USAID’s Sports for Life Program gave him. Spinning and popping wheelies between quarters, he is an aggressive and popular player.

The wheelchair has also helped at school. He wants to be a doctor and often dreams of representing his home province, Moxico, in a national wheelchair basketball competition.



USAID/ANGOLA

Ido Elias, also known as “Lito,” plays wheelchair basketball as part of the USAID-funded Sports For Life program.

# TELLING OUR STORY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> National Holiday Bulgaria	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Pay Period 5 National Holiday Ghana	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> National Holiday Mauritius
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> National Holiday Ireland	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Pay Period 6 National Holiday Tunisia	<b>21</b> National Holiday Namibia	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> National Holiday Pakistan	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> National Holiday Greece	<b>26</b> National Holiday Bangladesh
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		



An Iraqi woman shows the new currency of her country side-by-side with the old currency that featured a prominent portrait of Saddam Hussein.

A stable Iraqi currency will encourage countries interested in trading with Iraq and businesses wanting to invest in the country.

## NEW IRAQI CURRENCY CELEBRATES THE PEOPLE

Saddam Hussein ran Iraq's printing presses whenever he needed cash. Naturally, this led to high inflation and plummeting living standards. In late 2003, USAID, working with the Coalition Provisional Authority and the Treasury Department, introduced a new currency and put 4.62 trillion new dinars into circulation. The new dinar pays tribute to the Iraqi nation and its history. Along with a reform of the banking system, USAID is helping develop an independent central bank, new trade laws, and a modern commercial code. The new currency is used throughout the nation and has not only held its value, but gained strength.

USAID/THOMAS HARTWELL

# TELLING OUR STORY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					<b>1</b>	2
3 Pay Period 7	<b>4</b> National Holiday Senegal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	9
10	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	16 National Holiday Denmark
17 Pay Period 8 National Holiday Syria	<b>18</b> National Holiday Zimbabwe	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	23
24	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> National Holiday Israel, Tanzania	<b>27</b> National Holiday Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	30 National Holiday Netherlands

## “OPENING DOORS” SAVES GIRLS FROM EXCLUSION

Melissa and Melisia were the first two girls from their Peruvian town to register for school. There they encountered two very new challenges—learning Spanish and interacting with the male students.

But both Quechua-speaking girls benefited from a unique USAID program called Opening Doors, which promotes bilingual education, trains teachers and encourages girls’ education in 150 Peruvian communities. Within three years, Melissa and Melisia had completed fourth grade and were fully integrated into their schools. Furthermore, due to their parents’ and teachers’ support, the girls formed a musical duet and perform in nearby communities.



UNICEF

**This young Peruvian school girl faced challenges when first going to school because this is often a privilege reserved for boys.**

**The project helped to improve primary education and health conditions of students, promote early education, strengthen regional planning capacities, and encourage democratic principles in schools, families and communities.**

# TELLING OUR STORY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<p>Pay Period 9</p> <p>National Holiday <b>Marshall Islands</b></p>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> National Holiday <b>Poland</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> National Holiday <b>Czech Republic</b>	<b>9</b> National Holiday <b>European Union</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> National Holiday <b>Israel</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> National Holiday <b>Paraguay</b>
<b>15</b> Pay Period 10	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> National Holiday <b>Norway</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> National Holiday <b>Cameroon</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> National Holiday <b>Yemen</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> National Holiday <b>Eritrea</b>	<b>25</b> National Holiday <b>Argentina, Jordan</b>	<b>26</b> National Holiday <b>Guyana, Great Britain</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> National Holiday <b>Azerbaijan, Ethiopia</b>
<b>29</b> Pay Period 11	<b>30</b> U.S. Federal Holiday <b>Memorial Day</b> National Holiday <b>Croatia</b>	<b>31</b>				



## VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

When USAID officers discovered that a third of the infants in El Alto, Bolivia had not been fully vaccinated against pertussis, tetanus, polio, hepatitis B, and Hemophilus influenza B meningitis, they approached the Ministry of Health and local health care officials about the matter.

The result was a vaccination campaign. Neighborhood committees trained “manzaneras”—local women—to go door-to-door and educate parents about vaccination. During the campaign, over 5,000 children received doses of the vaccine, raising the rate of fully immunized children to 81% and demonstrating again the effectiveness of a collaborative approach to public health.

**The overall rate of children fully immunized, as measured by those receiving their third dose, reached 81%.**

**Young child in El Alto, Bolivia holds balloons that are a part of a successful immunization campaign against childhood diseases.**

# TELLING OUR STORY



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# JUNE '05

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			<b>1</b> National Holiday Samoa	<b>2</b> National Holiday Italy	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> National Holiday Tonga
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> National Holiday Sweden	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> National Holiday Portugal	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Pay Period 12 National Holiday Philippines, Russia	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> National Holiday Iceland	<b>18</b> National Holiday Seychelles
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> National Holiday Luxembourg	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> National Holiday Mozambique, Slovenia
<b>26</b> Pay Period 13 National Holiday Madagascar	<b>27</b> National Holiday Djibouti	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> National Holiday Dem. Rep. of Congo		

## “CLEANTOWN OF KOUNGHEUL”

The Senegalese town of Kougheul had long been troubled by unsanitary conditions. There was no sewage system or garbage dump. Waste disposal was haphazard. Efforts to improve conditions were blocked by a lack of coordination, communication, and leadership.

In 2003, however, a new administration began working with USAID to raise public awareness of sanitation issues and organize community meetings on the subject. This led to the “Clean Town of Kougheul” initiative and a community management structure.

Today, thanks to Kougheul’s new sense of shared responsibility, there is less litter, households bag their garbage, and puddles are filled with sand.

**Khady Top, resident of Kougheul, Senegal, and kola nut vendor, at the much cleaner town market.**



DGL FELO

“African tradition delegates cleanliness to women, but to make sanitation sustainable, you need the commitment and participation of the entire population and its local officials.”

Dr. Djir Diagne, chief physician

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# JULY '05

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 National Holiday Burundi, Canada, Rwanda	2
3 National Holiday Belarus	4 U.S. Federal Holiday Independence Day	5 National Holiday Cape Verde, Venezuela	6 National Holiday Comoros, Malawi	7 National Holiday Nepal, Solomon Islands	8	9
10 Pay Period 14 National Holiday Bahamas	11 National Holiday Mongolia	12	13	14 National Holiday France	15	16
17	18	19	20 National Holiday Colombia	21 National Holiday Belgium	22	23 National Holiday Egypt
24 Pay Period 15	25	26 National Holiday Liberia	27	28 National Holiday Peru	29	30 National Holiday Morocco
31						

“The great interest of teachers and students significantly contributed to the successes of the Green Schools.”

Gasa Knezevic, Minister of Education and Sport



YESNA BAKIC

Serbian students, three of over 10,000, participate in USAID's Green Schools program. Green Schools mobilizes resources for energy efficiency within the schools while also introducing teaching tools about environmental and energy education.

## SERBIAN STUDENTS PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Serbia long suffered from Soviet-style industrial production and environmental neglect. The Balkan Wars delayed change and added to the problems. By 2001, the country faced critical electrical shortages.

In response, USAID launched the innovative Green Schools program. This introduces energy and environmental education—as well as conservation programs—into schools in southern Serbia. Some 10,000 pupils and 800 teachers have taken part. In Razanj, for example, students put on a series of plays, which drew students and parents from neighboring villages. Now, both the school and the people of Razanj are working together on environmental protection and energy conservation.

# TELLING OUR STORY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	<b>1</b> National Holiday Benin, Switzerland	<b>2</b> National Holiday Macedonia	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> National Holiday Jamaica	<b>6</b> National Holiday Bolivia
<b>7</b> Pay Period 16 National Holiday Cote D'Ivoire	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> National Holiday Singapore	<b>10</b> National Holiday Ecuador	<b>11</b> National Holiday Chad	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> National Holiday Korea, Congo, Leichtenstein	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> National Holiday Indonesia, Gabon	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> National Holiday Afghanistan	<b>20</b> National Holiday Hungary
<b>21</b> Pay Period 17	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> National Holiday Ukraine	<b>25</b> National Holiday Uruguay	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> National Holiday Slovakia	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> National Holiday Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Trinidad and Tobago			

## TRAINING OPENS MANY DOORS

Jordan's Zeinab Momani was unable to attend university, so when her brother told her about a USAID business program, she jumped at the opportunity.

After conducting a feasibility study and a market needs assessment, Zeinab obtained a loan and opened a nursery and kindergarten in her village. Today, she has 110 students enrolled and she employs nine women.

By starting her own business, Zeinab felt she was "changing the stereotypical image of women and proving to those around me that the Jordanian woman is capable of participating in the social and economic development if she has the opportunity."



USAID/JORDAN

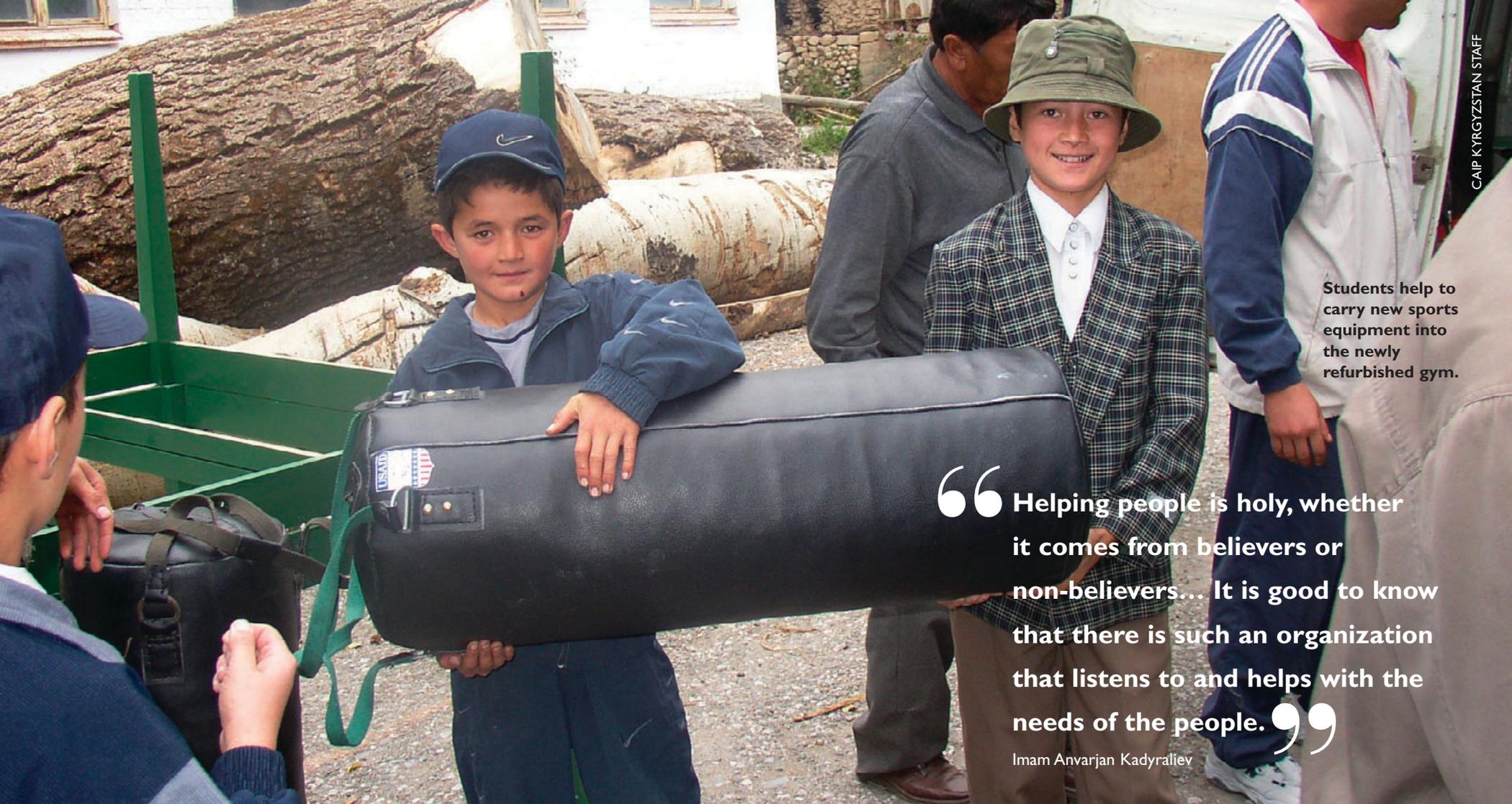
“When I completed the training,  
I felt like a new woman.”

Zeinab Momani

Zeinab Momani, 25-year-old entrepreneur, plays with children attending her kindergarten in Sakhra, Jordan.

# TELLING OUR STORY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 National Holiday Uzbekistan, Slovakia	2	3 National Holiday Qatar
4 Pay Period 18	5 U.S. Federal Holiday Labor Day	6 National Holiday Swaziland	7 National Holiday Brazil	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 National Holiday Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua	16 National Holiday Mexico, Papua New Guinea	17
18 Pay Period 19 National Holiday Chile	19 National Holiday St. Kitts and Nevis	20	21 National Holiday Belize, Malta	22 National Holiday Mali	23 National Holiday Saudi Arabia	24 National Holiday Guinea-Bissau
25	26	27	28	29	30 National Holiday Botswana	



Students help to carry new sports equipment into the newly refurbished gym.

“ Helping people is holy, whether it comes from believers or non-believers... It is good to know that there is such an organization that listens to and helps with the needs of the people. ”

Imam Anvarjan Kadyraliev

**IMAM HELPS SUPPORT INITIATIVE**

Arslanbob is an ethnic Uzbek village in Kyrgyzstan. Due to its isolation and lack of opportunity for young people, the town had become a recruiting ground for the banned Hizb-ut-Tahrir.

USAID works in such situations to reduce tensions. Working with community leaders there, it was decided to refurbish the local gym in order to provide a healthy outlet for the youth. However, no one was sure how to approach the local Imam, whose

support was critical. The Imam was so impressed with the concept, however, that he committed \$1,500 in weekly mosque contributions to the community's next project.

TELLING OUR STORY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 National Holiday China, Cyprus, Nigeria, Palau
2 Pay Period 20 National Holiday Guinea	3 National Holiday Germany	4 National Holiday Lesotho	5	6	7	8
9 National Holiday Uganda	10 U.S. Federal Holiday Columbus Day	11 National Holiday Fiji	12 National Holiday Equatorial Guinea, Spain	13	14	15
16 Pay Period 21	17	18 National Holiday Azerbaijan	19	20	21	22 National Holiday Holy See
23	24 National Holiday Zambia	25 National Holiday Kazakhstan	26 National Holiday Austria	27 National Holiday Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Turkmenistan	28	29 National Holiday Turkey
30 Pay Period 22	31					

## FOOD FOR BOLIVIAN STUDENTS

Many poor children in Bolivia depend on the food they receive at school for their only reliable meal of the day. Today, more than 584,000 students—almost half Bolivia's public school enrollment—benefit from this system.

By including bananas and passion fruit in the school meals, USAID has added important nutrients to the students' diets and provided a reliable source of income for thousands of farmers who have renounced coca production and supply the schools 100 metric tons of bananas and passion fruit every week.



USAID/BOLIVIA

**Bolivian primary school students hold up bananas provided by USAID as a part of their school lunch.**

**More than 584,000 students  
(or 47 percent of the country's public  
school enrollment) are benefiting from  
the USAID school feeding program.**

# TELLING OUR STORY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		<b>1</b> National Holiday Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> National Holiday Dominica, Panama	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> U.S. Federal Holiday Veterans Day National Holiday Angola	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Pay Period 23	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> National Holiday Slovakia	<b>18</b> National Holiday Latvia, Oman	<b>19</b> National Holiday Monaco
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> National Holiday Lebanon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> U.S. Federal Holiday Thanksgiving Day	<b>25</b> National Holiday Suriname	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Pay Period 24	<b>28</b> National Holiday Mauritania	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> National Holiday Barbados			



CORNELIA BUCUR/GRASP

“ I joined this program thinking of my brother who died last year in a terrible car crash together with three of his friends. I want to ensure that others stand a better chance. ”

Radu Cristian Dumitru

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Rural parts of Romania’s Sibiu County have little access to hospitals and ambulance service. USAID is helping address the need for the latter by funding emergency crews in two local firefighting departments.

The program trains firefighters to use specialized equipment and give emergency care before an ambulance can arrive. One team is equipped to international standards, giving a cardiac arrest case from the countryside the same chance of survival an urban case has. The team also responds to traffic accidents and provides first aid until an ambulance comes and patients can be taken to the hospital.

**Radu Cristian Dumitru, 24, one of the ten members of the emergency team in Dumbraveni, Romania stands near a new ambulance financed by USAID.**

# TELLING OUR STORY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 National Holiday Central African Republic, Romania	2 National Holiday Laos, United Arab Emirates	3
4	5 National Holiday Thailand	6 National Holiday Finland	7	8	9	10
11 Pay Period 25 National Holiday Burkina Faso	12 National Holiday Kenya	13	14	15	16 National Holiday Bahrain, Kazakhstan	17
18 National Holiday Niger	19	20	21	22	23 National Holiday Japan	24
25 Pay Period 26	26 U.S. Federal Holiday Christmas	27	28 National Holiday Nepal	29	30	31

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